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50X1-HUM

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1. On 22 and 23 March 2024 a meeting of the Berlin SED Landesvorstand (which referred to itself as the "Kleine Sekretariat") took place at their headquarters in the Behrenstrasse. Hans Jendretzky, First Chairman of the SED Landesvorstand Berlin, was in the chair. The group consisted of Bruno Baum, head of the Economic Section of the Berlin Landesvorstand, Heinz Hoffman, member of the Landesvorstand, Adolf Deter, Deputy Chairman of SED Landesvorstand Berlin, Paul Grebert, member of Abteilung Personalpolitik in the Landesvorstand, Walter Sack, Deputy Leader of the Economic Section of the SED Landesvorstand Berlin, Friedrich Ebert, Oberbürgermeister of East Berlin and member of the SED Politbüro, and five other unspecified members.
2. [redacted] the exclusion from the group of Karl Mewis, (Leiter der Abteilung Parteischulung, Kultur und Erziehung in the Landesvorstand) hitherto considered to have been one of the more important members of the Berlin SED, was noteworthy. 50X1-HUM
3. Jendretzky indicated that this assembly was, in fact, a lower level replica of the Politbüro, and that it would in future hold its meetings after those of the Politbüro.*
4. Jendretzky then addressed the assembly and suggested that SED members should now be urged to re-register for their food in the West Sectors. He advocated that special currency exchange offices (Ausgleichskassen) should be set up to enable chosen SED and DDK functionaries, who had to remain in the West Sectors, to exchange their East Marks for West Marks at a favorable rate. The funds for this operation would have to be found by the DDK.
5. The assembly opposed this suggestion, Bruno Baum stating that a step of this nature would bring the work of the SED in the West Sector to a standstill. It would be an admission of defeat and he, Baum, would raise strong objections to the plan.
6. It was subsequently agreed to embody the pros and cons of this argument in a resolution, which would be passed to the SMV at Karlshorst for a decision.

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* Comment: The establishment of Kleine Sekretariate as miniature editions of the Politbüro at Land Level was of course envisaged as a result of the 16th Tagung of the SED Parteivorstand on 24 January 1949 (when the Politbüro was set up). According to "Vorwaerts" (the SED Berlin newspaper) on 9 April the Kleine Sekretariat of the SED Landesvorstand Gross-Berlin consists of Jendretzky, Ernst Hoffmann (Stellvertretender Vorsitzender of the Landesvorstand), Friedrich Ebert, Waldemar Schmit (Stadtrat and head of Personnel Department in the Russian Sector Administration), Bruno Baum, Heinz Hoffman and Alfred Lowak (Sekretär in the Landesverband). It is interesting to note that meetings of the Kleine Sekretariat will follow those of the Politbüro and will not be held separately: the presence of Ebert on both bodies enables decisions to be transmitted easily.

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